

test to determine a debtor's ability to repay debts. The means test is inflexible and does not take into account individual family needs for public transportation, rent and food. The Senate bill also fails to ensure that child support payments will come first, ahead of the commercial creditors.

I will be closely monitoring the efforts of House and Senate negotiators to draft a compromise bankruptcy bill. Should the resulting bill include the anti-consumer provisions of the House passed bill, I will vote against the measure when it comes back to the House and encourage my colleagues to do likewise.

A TRIBUTE TO VINH TRONG NGO

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vinh Trong Ngo, a loving father of four and a community leader from Fresno, California, who died of a heart attack in Sacramento on May 10, 2001.

Mr. Ngo was born in Vietnam, graduated from Law University Saigon and later attended the University of California at Los Angeles.

He then returned to his home country and, in 1975 while fighting for the Army of the Republic of Vietnam, was captured by North Vietnamese soldiers and spent the next five years in a labor camp. In 1980, Mr. Ngo escaped from the camp and fled to the United States.

Mr. Ngo received from the United States the Distinguished Award for Bravery and the Silver Star for his military service.

In the early 1980s, he earned a Master's degree in Family Counseling from Western Oregon State College and moved to California.

Over the years, Mr. Ngo worked as a legislative assistant to Senator JOHN MCCAIN of Arizona and was a principal consultant to former Californian Assembly Member Art Agnos of San Francisco.

For the past four years, Mr. Ngo worked as the regional director of public affairs and development for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.

He was a leader in numerous community organizations, including the East Bay Vietnamese Association, the Refugee Federation of Oregon, Interfaith Alliance of Central California, Amnesty International, the Vietnam Veterans Association of California, the National Women Political Caucus and the Institute for Democracy.

He is survived by his wife, Namanh Bui, and four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to Vinh Trong Ngo and celebrating his legacy of service to his family, his community, and his country.

INDIA HONORS SWADESH
CHATTERJEE

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks celebratory events have been held both in Washington and in my district in North Carolina honoring one of our most distinguished citizens, Swadesh Chatterjee, upon his reception of India's Padma Bhushan award in the area of public affairs. The award was conferred by the President of India on March 22, 2001.

Established in 1954, the Padma Bhushan is one of the highest civilian awards that the Indian government can bestow on an individual. Mr. Chatterjee is the first Indian American from North Carolina to receive this award and the first Indian American to receive the award in the public affairs category.

"As a young boy growing up in the small town of Somamukhi, West Bengal," Mr. Chatterjee recalled, "I remember how in awe I was of the men and women who were chosen to receive these honors." Yet for those of us who have come to know Swadesh Chatterjee and to appreciate his leadership, this award is not surprising and is richly deserved. For Swadesh Chatterjee has gained recognition in North Carolina as an astute businessman and a respected community and political leader, and in recent years he has become well known nationally as well.

Particularly noteworthy has been Mr. Chatterjee's presidency over the past two years of the Indian-American Forum for Political Education (IAFPE), one of the oldest and most respected Indian-American organizations in the nation. In this capacity he worked effectively to strengthen the organization at the grass roots and to raise its profile nationally. He helped stimulate the growth of our Congressional Caucus on India and Indian-Americans. He encouraged President Clinton to make his historic trip to India last year and accompanied him when he went.

Mr. Chatterjee, his wife Manjusri, who is an accomplished psychiatrist, and their children Sohini and Souvik, are citizens of Cary, North Carolina, whom I am honored to represent. They have helped make the Indian-American community in our state a vibrant one, and they have greatly enriched our wider community as well. Swadesh Chatterjee once said that he and other Indian-Americans were "fortunate to be the children of two mothers: India, which gave us our lives, and the United States, which gives us our livelihood." He and his family are proud Americans who contribute a great deal to our country and remind us that being American does not require a masking or suppressing of our diversity; on the contrary, our country is enriched by the flourishing of the multiple ethnic and cultural traditions from which we came.

Mr. Speaker, the Padma Bhushan award is a fitting recognition not only of Swadesh Chatterjee's contribution to his native land but also of what he has contributed to America and to Indian-American relations. And while it surely represents a high point of his career, I am also confident that it points to even greater things to come!

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 2211—THE
BURMA FREEDOM ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is only befitting the heroic struggle of the outstanding human rights and democracy leader in Burma, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, that I today, on her birthday, introduce H.R. 2211. This bipartisan legislation bans the import of all articles into the United States which were produced, manufactured or grown in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Tom Harkin and Senator Jesse Helms. Together our efforts in introducing the House bill today will close an important loophole in the current sanctions of the United States with regard to Burma.

I am taking this strong step in light of the ongoing egregious human rights violations which the Burmese people continue to suffer by the hands of the brutal military regime which now calls itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). This legislation, which is already cosponsored by my colleagues Constance Morella of Maryland, Benjamin Gilman of New York, Pete Stark of California, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, Nancy Pelosi of California, Christopher Smith of New Jersey, Donald Payne of New Jersey, Dana Rohrabacher of California, Dennis Kucinich of Ohio, Joseph Pitts of Pennsylvania, William Delahunt of Massachusetts, Robert Andrews of New Jersey, Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii, Marcy Kaptur of Ohio, Michael Capuano of Massachusetts, Lane Evans of Illinois, James McGovern of Massachusetts, Sam Farr of California, Albert Wynn of Maryland and Janice Schakowsky of Illinois, sends a strong signal to the Burmese military dictatorship that the United States will no longer allow one of the world's most brutal regimes to reap the benefits of its outrageous practices of forced and child labor, rape and the mass imprisonment of opposition and ethnic minorities leaders.

In response to the outrageous and systematic use of forced and child labor, the International Labor Organization (ILO) evoked in June 2000—for the first time in its 82-year history—an extraordinary constitutional procedure to adopt a resolution which calls on the State Peace and Development Council to take concrete actions to end forced labor in Burma. In an unprecedented step, the ILO recommended that governments, employers, and workers organizations take appropriate measures to ensure that their relations with the SPDC do not abet the system of forced or compulsory labor. In addition, the ILO urges other international bodies to reconsider any cooperation they may engage in with Burma and, if appropriate, cease as soon as possible any activity that could abet the practice of forced or compulsory labor.

Mr. Speaker, if we take our responsibilities as the world leader on democracy and human rights seriously,

Already in 1997, Congress enacted sanctions and former President Clinton issued an